

INTRODUCTION.

THE reader of the following pages, having already seen 121
what has induced me to come forward with an historical 128
account of the Indians, after so many have written on
the same subject, will perhaps look for something more
extraordinary in this, than in other works of the kind
which he has seen. Not wishing any one to raise his
expectations too high, I shall briefly state, that I have
not written to excite astonishment, but for the informa-
tion of those who are desirous of knowing the true his-
tory of those people, who, for centuries, have been in full
possession of the country we now inhabit; but who have
since emigrated to a great distance. I can only assure
them, that I have not taken the information here com- [24]
municated from the writings of others, but from the
mouths of the very people I am going to speak of, and
from my own observation of what I have witnessed while
living among them. I have, however, occasionally quoted
other authors, and in some instances copied short passages
from their works, especially where I have thought it ne-
cessary to illustrate or corroborate my own statements
of facts.

In what I have written concerning the character, cus- 124
toms, manners, and usages of these people, I cannot have 123
been deceived, since it is the result of personal know-
ledge, of what I myself have seen, heard, and witnessed,
while residing among and near them, for more than
thirty years. I have however to remark, that this his- 177
tory, like other histories of former times, will not in
every respect comport with the character of the Indians
at the present time, since all these nations and tribes,

of traits are sufficiently numerous or take place with continuous contact, the process is acculturation. In practice, diffusion is also to be distinguished from acculturation on a difference in emphasis. That is, when the distribution of a single trait or a nexus of traits is the problem in hand, the spreading of the trait or traits is an example of diffusion, but when the subject of inquiry is a single culture receiving or giving many traits through diffusion under a condition of continuous contact, the process is called acculturation.

121 The Delaware tribe with its well-documented history offers an excellent opportunity for the study of the process of acculturation and also the testing of the hypothesis that when a culture is invaded or confronted by an alien culture and particularly a superior or more complex one, its technology is the first aspect to change, sociological concepts and practices are more resistant, and the spiritual life is the last aspect to be affected.

123 A resumé of documentary material relating to the Delaware was followed by field work among the Delaware in northeastern and south-central Oklahoma in the fall of 1938.